



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE REMOVES 235 ILLEGAL ALIENS AS PART OF DHS' SECURE BORDER INITIATIVE

Those deported today are from El Salvador and Honduras

HARLINGEN, Texas — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that the office here deported 235 criminal and non-criminal aliens yesterday as part of the Department of Homeland Security's new "Secure Border Initiative" (SBI). Those deported Monday are from El Salvador and Honduras.

SBI is a comprehensive ongoing plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal immigration. The aliens removed today were deported under two recent SBI programs, which include: an expanded Expedited Removal (ER) program, and Operation "Streamline II." The expanded ER program allows ICE to quickly remove "other than Mexican" (OTM) illegal aliens to their home countries. ER is an administrative process aimed at reducing the number of OTMs who have spent less than 14 days in the United States, and who are apprehended within 100 miles of the border.

Operation "Streamline II" was launched by U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Del Rio Border Patrol Sector. It began Dec. 16 to focus attention on arresting aliens who have illegally entered the United States through the Del Rio Sector, which is considered a high-traffic area. Those arrested under Streamline II may face prosecution for illegal entry, and can receive up to 180 days incarceration. While the illegal aliens are undergoing criminal proceedings, ICE simultaneously begins processing the paperwork for their removal from the United States.

One hundred nineteen of the 235 aliens removed yesterday were deported under Operation Streamline II. The remaining 116 were removed under the Expedited Removal program.

"Expedited removal continues to demonstrate its effectiveness in deporting as quickly as possible those aliens who have no legal right to be in the United States," said Marc J. Moore, ICE field office director in San Antonio. "Expedited removal and Operation Streamline II send a strong message that if you contemplate entering the United States illegally, you will be arrested and be quickly deported." Moore oversees ICE Detention and Removal Operations in the south Texas area, which includes the cities of: San Antonio, Austin, Harlingen and Laredo.

ICE effects its deportations aboard both commercial and government aircraft. The government's aircraft is run by the U.S. Marshal Service and is called the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS). JPATS is one of the largest transporters of prisoners in the world and handles hundreds of requests every day to move prisoners and criminal aliens nationally and internationally. There is an automatic 10-year bar against deported aliens from legally re-entering the U.S. It is a felony to re-enter the United States after deportation punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.